

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



*Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities*

In the matter of:  
ALEX ETIENNE, MD

C98-145

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (1995 Reenactment) a complaint was filed with the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Alex Etienne, M.D., Respondent, with violations of § 5-37-5.1. An investigation was conducted by Investigating Committee I, so called, of the Board.

The following constitutes the Investigating Committee's Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent.

Findings of Fact

1. The Respondent, a limited licensee in his first year of residency training in the Brown University Medical School, asked for a medical leave of absence for the purpose of obtaining treatment for substance abuse after self-reporting. The Respondent entered into an agreement with the Physician's Health Committee of the Rhode Island Medical Society.

2. While being monitored through random urine screening by the Physician's Health Committee following evaluation and treatment, it was learned that the Respondent relapsed.

3. The Physician's Health Committee notified the chief of the training program who took immediate steps to dismiss the Respondent from the training program and notified the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. The Respondent entered and completed a five month treatment program at Kent House.

4. The Board finds the Respondent guilty of unprofessional conduct for violating R.I.G.L. 5-37-5.1(5) for dependence upon controlled substances.

The parties agree as follows:

(1) The Respondent is a physician licensed and doing business under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Rhode Island, allopathic limited license number, No. 18375.

(2) Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.

(3) Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of Investigating Committee I of the Board and is subject to the final approval of the Board. This Consent Order is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.

(4) Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:

- a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
- b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
- c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
- d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
- e. The right to further procedural steps except for specifically contained herein;
- f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
- g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
- h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order;
- i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order.

(5) If the Consent Order is not accepted by the Respondent, the Investigative Committee will recommend to the Board that an Administrative Hearing be scheduled with respect to any and all acts of alleged unprofessional conduct. If the Board approves, a Hearing Committee will be convened for the purpose of conducting the Administrative Hearing. The composition of the Hearing Committee is described by statute. If the Hearing Committee votes in favor of finding the Respondent guilty of unprofessional conduct as specified in the charges, the Board shall prepare written finding of fact and law in support of said conclusion. If the accused is found not guilty, the Board shall, forthwith, issue an order dismissing the charges.

(6) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an admission by the Respondent of the facts set forth herein.

(7) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and by the Board.

(8) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.

(9) The Respondent voluntarily surrenders his limited license to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island. The Respondent agrees to enter into and comply with all the terms of a three (3) year contract with the Physician's Health Committee of the Rhode Island Medical Society.

Further, the Respondent agrees to make all treatment records and information regarding her rehabilitation available to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

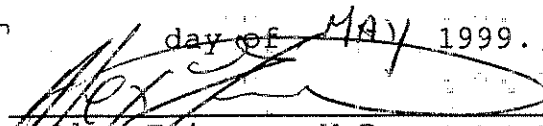
The Respondent agrees to a psychological evaluation by a physician with credentials in addiction medicine chosen by the Board. The Respondent agrees to provide the Board releases to obtain any and all records relating to treatment including psychological and psychiatric evaluations.

The Respondent agrees to submit to unannounced random urine screens which may be supervised at the discretion of the Rhode Island Medical Society Physician's Health Committee or its agents for the period of the contract.

The Respondent understands that a failure to comply with each and every term of this agreement will prohibit his ability to re-apply for a limited license in the State of Rhode Island.

Use of alcohol, drugs (except as prescribed for documented medical emergencies or ongoing therapy) and illegal drugs by the Respondent are strictly forbidden.

Signed this *Eleventh* day of *MAY* 1999.

  
Alex Etienne, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held on 1999.

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Patricia Nolan, MD, MPH  
Chairperson  
Board of Medical Licensure and  
Discipline